

Town of New Glarus  
Joint Parks Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday July 11, 2013 @ 6:30 pm

ATTENDING: Mark Janowiak Kevin Budsburg, Greg Thoemke, Joan Betz, Nic Own, Keith Seward, Chris Narveson, Andy Elkins, Dana Emmerton, Chris Reis (arrived at 6:42) and Susan McCallum, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Pete Raskovic

ALSO ATTENDING: Tammy and David Woerpel, Tom Mitchell-TPE (arrived at 7pm) and Don Ferguson (arrived at 7:15, departed at 7:50 pm).

1. Approve minutes of January 10 and April 4, 2013: Greg Thoemke moved to approve the minutes of January 10 and April 4, 2013, Andy Elkins 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried with D. Emmerton, C. Reis and C. Narveson abstaining for the April minutes.

2. Public comments: None

3. Continue discussion of a Joint Dog Park: K. Budsburg showed a location on wall map a lot of about 1/3 or 1/2 acre, long and narrow, to the East of where feed mills were for possible dog park on East side of the Village along the creek. It is small but many dog lots in big cities are that small, they are intended to let animals exercise and socialize. He had gotten fencing estimates 5 years ago of \$5,000 just for materials for a 10 acre parcel, using a sheep fence with graduated holes and if you could find volunteers to erect that would save expense. A. Elkins wondered whether the DNR would object because the land is in a flood zone. Discussion continued, it would be unusable in flood or wet times and closed during that time. K. Seward asked how far away it is from residential areas. K. Budsburg stated about 1/2 mile away is the nearest house. He also wondered whether it would be self sustaining. K. Budsburg said that in Dane County they charge users. Discussion included costs for maintenance and a waste removal collection point. Suggestions included double gating and leashing animals until they are inside. D. Emmerton said it might be a good trial starting with this smaller site to see if people really want this service. Dane County charges annual of \$30.00 and daily \$5.00. There was a suggestion of \$2 or \$3 and to combine permits with annual dog licensing. In answer to a question, N. Owen said current village rules state that no dogs are allowed in village parks. Verona doesn't call them dog parks but something similar to pet exercise area. D. Emmerton asked what would be the next step, Nic said we have to find money, maybe the Vision group, K. Budsburg said they haven't any money, N. Owen suggested maybe write a grant and someone could volunteer installation. D. Emmerton wondered whether a local supplier of materials could be solicited for a discount or donation, in return for a press release or acknowledgement. Maybe some local businesses could donate posts etc. Clark Strok asked is there any monies available from the state or anything like that. N. Owen said there are Stewardship Funds at the State level but thinks there is nothing available from Green County. A. Elkins asked could we get a fence estimate. J. Betz said there is still a Facebook page for Dog Face's New Glarus dog park from the meeting with them; Facebook.com/NewGlarusAreaDogPark. C. Reis suggested posting something on this to generate some interest and ask for donations, C. Narveson agreed. K. Budsburg suggested that after this meeting, maybe a few people here could go and look at the site. C. Narveson said the Town Parks Commission members would not be able as its' regular meeting follows this one. He suggested following up with any progress at the next joint meeting, the Town will put it on their regular agenda for August. C. Strok suggested donation plaques mounted on the fence in recognition of donors and G. Thoemke suggested donor bricks. D. Emmerton suggested evaluating costs for maintenance such as grass cutting. N. Owen stated the Village already mows the area. K. Budsburg will contact someone for estimate and supply it to the Town prior to their next regular meeting.

4. Update on Hoesly Pond: N. Owen said the FFA Alumni are applying for a Stewardship Grant, to basically do whatever they can; shelter house, walking trails, floating pier for handicap fishing and grading. It has been stocked possibly twice and they are working on signs to designate fishing only for children and the handicapped. They have been working to get it mowed, a person was supposed to make hay 3 weeks ago, after it gets graded and seeded it will be regularly mowed. There won't be any ice skating as it is spring fed, and makes the ice unstable. C. Narveson said there had been talk about

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planting trees around it, N. Owen said once it gets graded then trees can go in.

5. Town/Village Parks Updates:

a. Town:

TPE membership: The Town Parks Commission is a new member. C. Narveson explained who the group is and how they plan to work together.

Possible town trail: C. Narveson said impact fees have been collected for trails; at the last meeting we identified areas coming from the East across marsh land and crossing Hwy 69 to link with village trail, West edge of Town along trout stream and in the past had looked at old town to Old Madison Rd., but decide this would be too expensive. K. Seward wondered about maintenance along Hwy 69, N. Owen said all that is DNR trail and they do the maintenance, the village doesn't take care of any not even by the clinic. K. Budsburg talked about snowmobile trail along creek that goes to northern suburb area as a possibility, it is unknown who owns the land and it is flooded in the summer. There are bridges which are fixed by a snowmobile association. K. Seward wondered whether because of the efforts for the Back Town Plan that the two entities would work up a joint trail plan for future implementation. C. Narveson said the impact fees have to be used in a set time, and you need to have a start. N. Owen said nothing will happen with old Back Town area without relocating the village items that are there. C. Narveson said it doesn't make sense to work toward this area until Village resolves their issues. A. Elkins said it makes more sense to connect a trail from the East side of Hwy 69 across to the DNR trail. N. Owen said they had considered a bridge by the stop lights and brings the trail through Val Telle. C. Narveson and A. Elkins felt that while the ground work could be laid in a plan for northern trails it would not make sense to expend any monies for an uncertain future project. D. Emmerton asked could a map of what is being considered for the area be available for the next joint meeting and we could look at something that would be the easiest to implement, short term as well as long term. K. Seward asked didn't John Wright the former Deputy Clerk do some research on this issue. C. Narveson said they had planned to buy land behind Tell's Shooting Park but someone else made the purchase. K. Seward stated you could work with this owner. A. Elkins asked whether we could get the information that J. Wright did and begin identifying specific property owners to contact. C. Reis said many people walk on the sides of roadways throughout the Town. C. Narveson stated we will put it on the next joint agenda and Town's regular monthly meeting.

Additions to BBRC: C. Narveson talked about the committee walking the lot lines and identifying the borders because they want to encourage use without trespassing, they seem to be fairly well defined. The discussion has included using plantings not fencing. They are planning to put up bird watching stations and the scouts have installed blue bird houses. C. Strok suggested just spraying florescent paint on top of poles so then they are easily visible. C. Narveson said the neighbors are keeping it up with mowing and picking up trash, there are sumac invasives and multi flora roses we need to address. We have also been considering a better entrance or a gate way to define the park.

b. Village:

G. Thoemke reported the following;

The pool registrations and revenues are in line with expectations.

Chalet of the Golden Fleece has a robust volunteer group keeping it open on festival weekends and doing basic maintenance. Last week approved an expenditure of \$3000 for this season to hire curator/tour guide to restore it as a tourist attraction with regular hours and promotions. The loss of funding for the trolley has created a need to develop traffic to the site.

Village has just started discussions regarding Glarner Park as a library site instead of the previously proposed location; the softball field would need to be relocated. This evening they had a conversation with a portion of the school board in regards to a possible joint venture with this relocation as well as redoing the fields to a complex. Results of this meeting were to get bids on cost and time. Initial discussion is for a 50/50 split for school and village to maintain. If this does gain traction, it would be determined in the next couple of months as this would need to move along quickly. C. Narveson asked whether the grassy area would be removed as this would enable soccer fields. K. Seward asked about baseball field campus concept. G. Thoemke related the preliminary discussions and the poor conditions of the fields, possibly relocating the softball diamond to Veteran's park that would include a possible complex. D. Emmerton related the fact that a lot of high school baseball games were missed due to field water conditions. G. Thoemke said the amount was \$25,000 for the softball and \$40,000 for the baseball

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diamond. J. Betz said the need is based on the clay base that has been compacted which ideally needs a sand and/or gravel mix for drainage and there is a lip on the baseball diamond edge of the infield because so much has been washed away. C. Narveson said that the soccer group has been talking that the joint New Glarus and Belleville would split because of increased participation, but New Glarus does not have a soccer field. K. Budsburg said the school district is growing quickly and there are not enough places for these activities and that is why they are talking about replacing not just the one softball diamond but building a second.

C. Narveson asked how the skating rink went this last winter. N. Owen said there was very low use in the past and this last year it was never installed due to the weather. He said he didn't think it is worth trying to establish. Everyone agreed the current weather pattern is very unstable for this activity.

N. Owen announced that the Alphorn Man Sprint Triathlon is August 4, and they are looking for volunteers. He is the contact person.

D. Emmerton questioned whether non profits wanting to use the school gym are charged for use. C. Narveson said he didn't think so but there are scheduling conflicts. There was general discussion regarding future use of current library when it moves. J. Betz stated that a lot of groups now meet other places because the library charges for the meeting room.

6. Schedule next meeting and agenda items: Thursday October 10, 6:30 pm in the Village. Agenda to include; Town/Village trails, fencing estimates and continued discussion regarding new proposed location for Dog Park in the Village and Hoesly Pond update.

7. Adjourn: G. Thoemke moved to adjourn at 7:43 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Reis, motion carried.